

The Newsletter of  
AIChE's Fuels and  
Petrochemicals Division

Dear Colleagues,

The summer is over and the fall is setting in. With the advancement of this cycle of time, it is time again for this year's annual meeting. We are getting ready to get organized for this year's annual meeting in Salt Lake City during November 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>. As a part of this getting ourselves organized, we are committed to getting the fall edition of our news letter, Flashpoint, published and available to all of you on our web site. To maintain our tradition, therefore, time has come again to formally communicate with you through this edition of Flashpoint.

I would like to start my message with the concluding remarks I made in my previous message included in the summer issue of Flashpoint. We started our year with five specific objectives. These are: 1) enhance the quality of technical papers and not necessarily increase the number; 2) welcome participation of young professionals in an active role in technical programming and presentations, as well their participation in our committee meetings; 3) enhance inter- and intra-divisional communication to minimize duplication of voluntary effort and to create synergy; 4) create more alignment of our divisional effort with the objective of our Institute at the national level; and last but not the least 5) continue to attract more members to our Institute and to our division by persistently working on improving our value proposition to our professional colleagues in academia and industry. I am pleased to report to you that with the help of my executive committee, we are maintaining our focus to make advancement in all five objectives. My special thanks to all of you who are directly involved in chartering the path towards advancement of all these objectives.

I believe being chemical engineers at this juncture, we have the best opportunity to positively impact society at large by finding solutions to the multifaceted challenges that our society at large is faced with. Among a multitude of others, the most important ones are 1) supplying and managing clean water via advanced purification and recycling processes and technologies, and 2) meeting the ever-increasing energy demand in environmentally safe and sustainable ways. In this context, as you may be aware of, the Institute at its national level has rolled out an initiative, Center for Energy Initiative (CEI); and all its divisions, including ours, are actively involved. Please get engaged and make your professional contributions in this important initiative.

In conclusion, I would like to mention that through a long and enduring process, with help from our dedicated volunteers Freeman Self and Dennis Griffith and active engagement of one of our new directors, Jayce Mathews, we have successfully acquired the IP rights of the Refining Principles and Practices CD. This document as a PDF will be available very soon on our web site for the members-only section. I believe this document will be of use to current and future engineers and technologists engaged in petroleum refining industries.

In conclusion of my message, I extend my open

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## **Fuels and Petrochemicals Programming Update** By Tim Olsen

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The Fuels & Petrochemicals Division (F&PD) is looking forward to the upcoming Annual Meeting at the Salt Palace

**2011 F&PD Scholarship Applications are now being Accepted**

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## *2010 Regional Process Technology Conference in Galveston a Success*

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Hundreds of chemical engineers and other professionals in the chemical processing and petrochemical industries attended the Second South Texas Regional Process Technology Conference at the Moody Gardens Hotel in Galveston, TX, on Oct. 7-8. Attendees were greeted with perfect weather and a number of excellent speakers, including Keynote Speaker from Shell, and AIChE President Hank Kohlbrand, recently retired from Dow. Attendees also enjoyed many networking opportunities over lunches and dinners and were able to visit the Exhibits as well. This excellent program left many Chemical engineers in the South Texas Region looking forward to the 2011 Event!

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### *Flashpoint is now accepting advertising!*

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*Flashpoint*, The Newsletter of the Fuels and Petrochemicals Division, is published three (3) times per year. It is distributed electronically to our membership and other interested parties (nearly 1,500 people, mostly chemical engineering professionals) in March (prior to the Spring AIChE Meeting), July and October (prior to the Fall AIChE Meeting) and it is also posted on F&PD's website. Contact Lori McDowell if interested.

Our current standard advertising rates are:

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## F&PD Elections -Slate of Candidates

The voting process will soon start for Officers and Director's for F&PDs 2011 2012 Executive Committee. This year, voting will be for the Second Vice Chair and for three director candidates, Candidate bios, photos and statements will be posted on F&PDs website in the next few weeks, but in the meantime, the slate of candidates is included here. Voting details will be provided shortly, and voting will start in November and end December 31, 2010. Look for your ballots soon!

### *Candidates for Second Vice Chair*

Richard Isherwood—UOP

Lori McDowell—Praxair, inc.

### *Candidates for Director*

Belma Demeril—Rentech, Inc.

Gary Hawkins—Emerson Process Management

Helen Lou—Lamar University

M. Nazmul Karim— Texas Tech

Peyton Richmond—Lamar University

## Notes from the Editor by Lori McDowell

Welcome to the Fall issue of Flashpoint! Time has certainly gone by fast, it seems like it was just yesterday when the Summer issue came out. I hope you have all had a productive fall and are ready for the winter. Last winter we had some snow in Houston, but this winter my family will head up to the northeast in search of snow.

Speaking of snow, Salt Lake City has its share and, AIChE's Fall Annual meeting in Salt Lake City is just around the corner. The Spring Meeting in Chicago will be here before we know it. Hopefully, spring weather comes to Chicago with the meeting instead of snow!

I received a letter from AIChE last week notifying me that I have been selected as an AIChE Fellow. Thanks to Dennis O'Brien for all his hard work on my nomination! While I am excited to be selected and to be part of such a wonderful group, it is somewhat bittersweet. When I look in the mirror, I still see the 25 year old young female engineer excited about the career ahead, not someone who has been in the industry 25 years-and I always thought Fellows were old men-no offense meant. I'm now sure that even our 80 and 90 year-old+ members still see themselves as those young engineers! And I probably appear ancient to all those young YPAB members! I guess that just means that we all have a lot more in common than our differences, and as long as we keep learning, we'll never get old! Well have a great fall, a great holiday season and see you all next year! As always, suggestion, comments and criticisms are always welcome and encouraged! Lori



## AICHE Spring 2011 Meeting: Topical Conference on Refinery Processing

Utilization of gas continues to gain more attention because of higher oil price. The use of LNG is gaining popularity for power generation, industrial basic materials and household usag



**On the Lighter Side—to all the kids who survived the 1930's,  
40's, 50's, 60's and 70's—Congratulations!**

First, we survived being born to mothers who smoked

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**CHAIR:**

Syamal Poddar

**TREASURER:**

Steve Coleman

**COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR:**

Lori McDowell

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